Miscellanea.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—It is perhaps questionable whether London ever held so distinguished a position, or whether Britain was ever so truly Great, in the sight of all nations, as at this moment, in anticipation of that grand cosmopolitan centralization of the whole world's enterprize, which will virtually elect the capital of England into the commercial metropolis of the nations. For then, without the slightest vestige of a hyperbole, will there be here assembled the representative fruits of the genius and industry of "every nation under heaven," to do homage to the pre-eminence of the British Empire, as at least the central mart for all, whatever be the result to it in particular, as that "Great Babylon" to which "all the merchants of the earth" will doubtless be devoted till the ominous end of their commercial empire. The several announcements of the intention of many of the more civilised nations on the continent of Europe and America to take part in the great jubilee or fair have long been made and known, as indeed have subsequently those of the less civilized Asiatic nations,—such as the Hindus, Chinese, and Persians. Still more recent announcements are those from Turkey, the Sultan having decided that specimens of Turkish manufactures shall be sent in to the exhibition; and from Peru, the President of which has issued a decree appointing a commission to select and take charge of the Peruvian contributions. The Canadians are about to hold a grand district industrial fair at Montreal in connection with the international one of '51. From this district exhibition selections will be made for transmission to London. The Government of Wurtemburg have just appointed a commission to represent the interests of that country in the great commercial Parliament. Animated debates are being held in the manufacturing circles of Paris on this momentous question. Many dwell on the new advantages which England will draw from foreign products, in order to repair her deficiencies on points where she is now beaten by foreigners. Others represent that the superb silk of Lyons, the rich, fanciful bronzes and objects of art in Paris, fear no competition, and that a great impulse to these branches of commerce will result from the opportunity of dazzling the Briton with such articles of luxury. The body of manufacturers has taken the title of "Union of Parisian Industry for the Universal Exhibition;" and the board have met to classify the industrial sections, and name delegates to prepare, in concert with the board, a joint exposition of the special branches. In short, the whole world is astir, and London and its next year's sights are the anticipative subject of that whole world's wonder and expectation, from the present time forth till the grand consummation.

ELY CATHEDRAL.—The Dean and Chapter have put forward a renewed appeal to the public for funds towards the restoration of their cathedral. The extraordinary funds which have been placed at their disposal are not sufficient to meet the contracts and engagements into which they have already entered, whilst much more will be sooner or later required for other works which are absolutely necessary for the completion of the design: such as a stone screen, of an enriched character, behind the stalls; a new pavement; a new arrangement for the altar and reredos; the restoration of the half ruined monuments, as far as they can be considered essential parts of the architecture; inferior stalls and moveable seats for a much larger congregation than the new stall-work now in preparation can accommodate; and the replacement of groups of sculpture in the niches of the canopies of the stalls, which were destroyed at the Commonwealth. The works for the new choir are in great forwardness. Mr. Rattee, of Cambridge, has already completed the principal parts of the screen, the canopied seats of the Bishop and Dean, the entire new series of sub-stalls, and is also engaged upon a case for the new organ. The brass work for the open panels and crest of the screen, and the gates of the choir, has been entrusted to Mr. Hardman. Some progress has been made in cleaning the ancient stalls of Alan de Walsingham, which are to be transferred to the new choir.

STOCKPORT: FALL OF COTTON MILL.—At the inquest on the bodies of those (thirteen in number) killed in the fall of a mill reported in our last week's impression, Mr. Fairbairn and Mr. Hodgkinson were examined as to the probable cause. The latter attributed the fall to insufficient strength in the cast-iron beam over the water-wheel and tunnel. This beam consists of horizontal flanges, tied together by a thin vertical plate, pierced with large apertures to save metal, but strengthened by rods, assisting to tie the flanges together. Witness was of opinion that these apertures had weakened the beam, and caused it to break in the centre, where one of the pillars rested on it which were necessary to support the floors above. There was a tall pillar under each end of this beam, of cruciform construction. These, at best, were not so strong as cylindrical pillars of equal weight of metal, and, in this instance, as the pillars tapered and were thinner at each end, *they would vibrate with the working of machinery above—always a great evil with cast metal.* Mr. Fairbairn also attributed the fall to the breaking of this beam, and the breaking of the beam partly to the apertures, but not wholly to these. The beam otherwise was calculated to carry a weight of 274 tons: actual weight upon it, 80. He disapproved of the upright or strengthening rods, which would have an injurious effect on the beam, after being cast, in the cooling process: an unequal contraction would be the consequence. Witness attributed the false construction of the beam to an error of judgment, and to no niggardly spirit of saving metal or improper motive on the part of the contractors. The jury found that the floors "were supported by a cast-iron beam, of an imperfect construction, and of an improper calculation, considering the weight which it had to bear."

THE METROPOLITAN INTERMENTS ACT.—This Act, under which Dr. Southwood Smith has been appointed an additional paid member of the Board of Health, will be speedily enforced in "the metropolitan burial district," which comprises the city of London, Southwark, and numerous parishes set forth in one of the schedules annexed. There are 77 sections in the Act, which Act is to be executed by the Board of Health. The board may provide new burial-grounds, and her Majesty, on a report of the board, in council may order the discontinuance of interments in churchyards and other places.

WARE, HERTS.—Eight model cottages are in progress here, near the union workhouse on the hill; the funds being provided by a local joint-stock company. Three tenders were obtained, stated to be, in round numbers, Bird, 1,100*l.*; Carter, 1,000*l.*; and, Piper, 900*l.* The cottages seem to be unwisely small.——To one of some semi-detached villas erected near the last, there is an amusing porch of Ionic columns; the capitals are so much too large that the columns look as if the lower half were buried in the ground.——The Board of Health here is at a stand-still, through not being able to obtain bye-laws from the central board. The same complaint has reached us from other parts of the country.

RECORDS OF OUR CHURCHES.—When the present Bishop of Ripon came into position he solicited from every incumbent in his diocese a drawing of his church, in order that the whole might be put together and preserved. The request was cheerfully responded to, and the result is very valuable. The example might be usefully followed in other districts.

SANITARY REFORM BY BUILDERS.—Your admonition to builders in a recent leader is excellent. Those few lines have been long required. It is but proper that men who are themselves convinced of the evils arising from the absence of sanitary measures, and therefore of the necessity of sanitary reform—should aid and support that reform by every means in their power. The "sanitary" reform is a mighty one—a reform that requires *united* powers to perfect, and yet a reform presenting the peculiarity of being able to be completed in *part*, by the exertions of individual members of society. To this we must look for its more speedy advancement. Even many architects rest content with merely *talking* about it. I suppose they are of Portia's class. "I could easier teach twenty what were good to be done, than be one of the twenty, to follow mine own teaching." This will not do. Let them now address themselves in earnest to the work, and see who can do most real good. In the meantime, Mr. Builder, do you "fight the good fight, and fight it out,"—again, "*nil desperandum.*"—W. W.

THE TEMPLE.—Mr. Edward C. Hakewill announces an essay on the form of "The Ark, the Tabernacle, and the Temple of Jerusalem," showing their identity with the concomitant forms of classic architecture, and the universality of its use in the Temple Architecture of the Mosaic Dispensation, as of Gothic for the same purpose, during the Christian Dispensation.

ORNAMENTAL GLAZING.—"W. H. I." is rather hard on the glaziers. The defects to which he alludes we cannot at all times obviate; for much of the ornamental window-glass is manufactured in sheets, and supplied in that form to the glass-cutters, who cut them up with little regard to the positions the squares are intended to occupy when glazed. The fault lies at least as much with our employers, who allow such defects to pass, more especially as ornamented window-glass can be obtained, to order, at very short notice, executed so as to range properly.—A GLAZIER.

SEWERAGE OPERATIONS, PARLIAMENT GARDENS.—Mr. Mackinnon stated in the House the other night that eight officers of the House had been seriously indisposed by complaints such as usually arise from exhalations from graveyards and sewers, since the opening of the drains in the immediate vicinity of the House.

MONUMENT TO WORDSWORTH.—A committee, of which the Bishop of London is chairman, has taken in hand to promote a subscription for the purpose of placing a full-length effigy of Wordsworth in Westminster Abbey, and, if possible, of also erecting some monument to his memory at Grasmere.

CHURCH BUILDING.—From the annual report of the Commissioners for Building new Churches, it appears that since the last report, twenty-one churches have been completed, thirty-two are now building, seventeen have been decided on, three plans are under consideration, and thirty-eight grants have been made for as many others to be erected; and besides, that five others have been built by private persons, and that nine more of same class are in progress. The total cost of the thirty-two churches now building will be above 97,000*l.* or rather more than 3,000*l.* for each, which, as the average of the whole 125, would shew that a sum of 375,000*l.* is now being expended on new churches.

MONUMENT TO THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE.—Effective steps have been taken to raise a public monument to the Duke of Cambridge, and will, we hope, result successfully.

BRADFORD WORKHOUSE TENDERS.—The local *Observer* gives a list of tenders for the several works to be done in erecting the Bradford new workhouse, but it is too long for detailed notice. The masons' work, in nine tenders, ranged from 3,000*l.* to 3,950*l.*; the joiners', in nine tenders, from 1,296*l.* to 1,679*l.*; the plumbers' and glaziers', in seven tenders, from 356*l.* to 475*l.*; the slaters', in four tenders, from 352*l.* to 385*l.*; the ironfounders', in seven tenders, from 180*l.* to 290*l.*; the plasterers', in nine tenders, from 168*l.* to 247*l.*; and the painters', in twelve tenders, from 74*l.* to 159*l.* Those adopted were:—

MASONS' WORK.			
Priestley and Gledhill	£3,000	0	0
Additional work	10	0	0
JOINERS' WORK.			
J. and W. Beanland	1,296	0	0
Additional work	16	0	0
PLUMBERS' AND GLAZIERS' WORK.			
Guthrie	379	0	0
SLATERS' WORK.			
Hill and Sons	352	0	0
Additional work	3	18	0
IRONFOUNDERS' WORK.			
Heaps	180	0	0
PLASTERERS' WORK.			
Tattersall	168	0	0
Additional work	2	6	3
PAINTERS' WORK.			
Hird	74	19	0
Total	£5,482	3	3

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